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Kennedy Dancers to Take NJMC Stage

NJMC Arts Grant Recipient Will Perform at Meadowlands Environment Center

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission will host The Kennedy Dancers, a non-profit dance company based in Jersey City for two performances of “Meadowlands Serenade” on April 27.

“The Meadowlands, and the people that live here have a wonderful story to tell. Whether it’s through painting, photography or dance, the arts and their ability to interpret the places where we live are a critical part of our communities and their ability to thrive,” said NJMC Chair Susan Bass Levin, also the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Commissioner. “This performance will add yet another facet to the growing artistic community in the Meadowlands District.”

Two performances will be held at the Meadowlands Environment Center on April 27. The first performance is a matinee for schoolchildren at 10:30 a.m. The second performance is open to the general public at 6:30 p.m. The second performance will be followed by a question-and-answer session and reception. Admission to both shows is free.

“Meadowlands Serenade” is a dance story choreographed by Diane Dragone, artistic director of The Kennedy Dancers and founder of the dance company. The story focuses on the migratory birds of the Hackensack Meadowlands. It will be told in a multi-media format that includes bossa nova music by composer Antonio Carlos Jobim, new age music by composer Paul Winter, vocal narration of the Meadowlands’ history and video footage of the region’s wildlife.

“I’m very excited for the opportunity the NJMC has provided me to bring this performance to the Meadowlands,” Dragone said. “DeKorte Park is one of my favorite places for bird watching, and to be able to connect the hobby with my art is rewarding. This really is a work of love.”

The Kennedy Dancers was formed in 1978 to bring high-quality dance performances to Jersey City, greater Hudson County and the tri-state area. Since its inception, the company has responded to the needs of the community by adding a dance school, dance programs in local school systems, and programming designed specifically for urban youth, the elderly, and people living with learning disabilities and physical challenges.

The Meadowlands Environment Center is an NJMC facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey. The MEC is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call (201) 460-8300 or log on to www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec.

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